

## **NRCS...Committed to Conservation Planning**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado reinforces its commitment to conservation planning and continues its emphasis as one of the Agency's highest priorities. Conservation plans are developed by first understanding the resource needs and a landowner's desired land use goals, then, based on sound scientific practices, NRCS provides hands on assistance to help the landowner achieve as many of their goals as possible.

*"Planning is critical to the success of almost any endeavor, and getting the kind of results you desire from the land is no different. Developing and implementing a conservation plan can identify and provide focus to activities that will reap those desired results. A conservation plan can only increase the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation efforts,"* says Allen Green, NRCS State Conservationist, Lakewood, CO.

The science and technology behind conservation planning began in the early 1940s with the father of Conservation, Hugh H. Bennett. NRCS continues to encourage and utilize his same methodology which attests that an effective conservation planner must and always consider the needs and capabilities of each acre within the plan; consider the client's resources and economic situation; incorporate the client's willingness to try new practices; consider the land's relationship to the entire farm, ranch, or watershed, and; ensure the conservationist's presence out on the land.

*"NRCS is proud of the ideology behind its conservation planning process,"* Green goes on to say. *"As it serves as a road map which identifies alternatives to reach desired results, it also offers benefits not only for the landowner but, when implemented, to our natural resources as well."*

NRCS' commitment to the conservation planning process is strong and as a result, encourages landowners to enroll into a conservation plan and implement it. *"We want our customers, existing and potential, to know how important this tool is and how valuable it can be. We will take advantage of any opportunity to foster that message,"* Green finally states. *"It's one of the best tools around to help landowners assess and inventory their resources. It's developed using state of the art technology and generates information that if implemented can have a positive impact on the bottom line. It's free. NRCS provides this service at no cost to the landowner and if landowners develop and implement a conservation plan they may receive priority status when and if they decide to apply for certain NRCS financial assistance and stewardship programs."*

For additional information about conservation plans, please contact the NRCS or local Conservation District field office that services your county.